

What is claimed is:

1. A terminal lock system for verifying that the user of a terminal device is a person with the legitimate right to use the terminal device for thereby protecting the terminal device
5 against unauthorized use by a third party, comprising:

a key device which is portable, said key device having radio communication means for performing short-range radio communications; and

- a terminal-associated device for requesting a
10 connection to said key device through the short-range radio communications, and inhibiting the terminal device combined with said terminal-associated device from being used if information of the key device which is confirmed as being connected to said terminal-associated device does not agree
15 with information registered in the terminal-associated device, or if said terminal-associated device is not confirmed as being connected to the key device through the short-range radio communications.

- 20 2. A terminal lock system according to claim 1, wherein said key device starts the short-range radio communications with said terminal-associated device only when a predetermined action is made thereon.

- 25 3. A terminal lock system according to claim 1, wherein said key device registers information of said terminal-

associated device in advance therein, and said key device connects to said terminal-associated device through the short-range radio communications only when the information registered in the terminal-associated device which has
5 requested a connection to said key device and the information registered in said key device agree with each other.

4. A terminal lock system according to claim 3, wherein said key device starts the short-range radio
10 communications with said terminal-associated device only when a predetermined action is made thereon.

5. A method of locking a terminal device for verifying that the user of the terminal device is a person with the
15 legitimate right to use the terminal device for thereby protecting the terminal device against unauthorized use by a third party, comprising the steps of:

registering information of a key device which is portable in a terminal-associated device combined with the
20 terminal device, said key device having radio communication means for performing short-range radio communications;

requesting a connection to said key device through the short-range radio communications from said terminal-associated device; and

25 inhibiting the terminal device combined with said terminal-associated device from being used if information of

the key device which is confirmed as being connected to said terminal-associated device does not agree with information registered in the terminal-associated device, or if said terminal-associated device is not confirmed as being connected to the key device through the short-range radio communications.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein said key device starts the short-range radio communications with said terminal-associated device only when a predetermined action is made thereon.

7. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of:
connecting said key device to said terminal-associated device through the short-range radio communications only when the information registered in the terminal-associated device which has requested a connection to said key device and the information registered in said key device agree with each other.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein said key device starts the short-range radio communications with said terminal-associated device only when a predetermined action is made thereon.